



Nicole Tufts, co-owner of Riot Snack Bar, pulls a pint of some of the local beer they stock at their Quinpool Road eatery on Tuesday.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

'GAME CHANGER'

Restaurants across Nova Scotia can now serve alcohol without food **metroNEWS**

Winter veggies springing up

FRESH PRODUCE

Council OKs cooler version of Mobile Food Market



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

The Mobile Food Market that was a hit in food desert communities across the municipality last summer will be waking from hibernation soon for a winter version.

The Mobile Food Market was a pilot project that ran over 21 weeks last summer, using a Halifax Transit bus as a market for fresh, yet inexpensive fruits and vegetables. It made

stops in East Preston, North Preston, North end Halifax, Spryfield, and Fairview — all communities where food insecurity, or lack of access to healthy food, is high.

Following a unanimous vote in favour of the initiative at Tuesday's meeting of regional council, the municipality, along with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Ecology Action

Centre and other groups, will start serving the same communities starting on Feb. 25.

The winter version of the market won't use a Halifax Transit bus, but will instead set up "drop and go" food boxes in East Preston and Spryfield, and "stay and sell" temporary indoor markets in North Preston, North end Halifax and Fairview.

"There is no finer initiative that we should be supporting than this," said Coun. Lisa Blackburn.

"The facts are there, and they're not alternative facts, that Halifax does have the highest level of household food insecurity of 33 metropolitan areas across Canada."

Coun. Shawn Cleary told council he volunteered on

the bus last summer, and saw firsthand the market selling out of fruits and vegetables.

"It really brought fresh fruits and vegetables, and community spirit, to the places that it stopped," he said.

The more mobile version of the market will be back up and running this summer as well, starting in May and lasting till October.



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'Up and running' in two weeks

WORK-TO-RULE

School sports in Nova Scotia should be back in action soon



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

School sports should be back to normal across Nova Scotia in two weeks, and it looks like most teachers will be back to handle former roles despite the

union's talk of transitioning into a 'new normal.'

Although the roughly six weeks of work-to-rule action taken by teachers in a labour dispute with the province means a "truncated" season for many sports, no key provincial or regional dates were missed, according to the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation (NSSAF).

"Schools are able to start practising and doing exhibition games right now, and we're just trying to sort out things behind the scenes so that when we're up and running again we're up

and running for good," NSSAF executive director Stephen Gallant said Tuesday.

Gallant said since the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) announced late Friday that work-to-rule would be phased out starting Monday, the coordinators have been adjusting schedules and reaching out to teams to make sure they're coming back.

When asked about his reaction to NSTU president Liette Doucet's comments the transition from job action means "a new normal" for schools, Gallant said he's not sure what "context"

Doucet meant and didn't have a comment on her statement.

"But, we have always been very fortunate to have great support from teachers and principals to make sure that all of our activities are successful. I would hope that we can continue to have that great relationship," he added.

Since Gallant said he only deals with school principals, he hasn't heard directly from teachers about how many are returning to sports at the same level they were before work-to-rule.

"I've had a lot of calls from



The calls I get are certainly 'how do we get back at it?'

Stephen Gallant

coaches and other people, but they're all looking forward on when can they get going and how," Gallant said.

Since there are exams going on at most schools this week, Gallant said it won't be until next week that coaches can assemble their squads for a few practices, so it's "probably going to take two weeks before you see league games back up."

Gallant said it's an unfortunate reality that sports like basketball, hockey, curling, wrestling and more can't have their seasons extended any longer than usual to make up missed games.

"We have 19 sports, so at the end of some sports is the beginning of the next one. We are bound to our calendar," Gallant said.



Mysterious bags containing donations of warm clothing appeared hanging from trees in Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth on Tuesday. As of press time the source of the random act of kindness could not be located. JEFF HARPER/METRO

GOOD WILL

Kindness growing on Dartmouth trees



Jeff Harper
Metro | Halifax

If trees could speak, they'd have a story to tell in Dartmouth.

Mysterious packages containing warm clothing in waterproof bags appeared Tuesday hanging from a tree in Sullivan's Park.

The anonymous parcels contained one item of warm clothing, a updated list of homeless resources in the city and a handwritten note with a heart and the phrase "Love, Nikola Tesla's Army".

Nikola Tesla was, of course, a Serbian-American inventor

famous for his pioneering work in electricity. He died in 1943.

Photos of the bags circulated on social media Tuesday, but as of press time the source of this random act of kindness could not be located.

Many people tweeted their appreciation for whoever had created the packages, including Andrea Valentini (@GypsySpirit46) who said "Amazing acts of random kindness ... thank you!"

A series of pictures of the packages tweeted out by @HaliBreaking had gotten more than 100 likes, and was retweeted more than 70 times as of Tuesday afternoon.

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Liquor rules 'modernized'

ALCOHOL

Two alcoholic drinks can be served to those not eating



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Being able to serve alcohol to patrons who don't order food is "a game changer" for eateries like Riot Snack Bar in Halifax.

On Tuesday the province announced a change to its liquor licensing regulations. They now allows customers who want to have a beer or a cocktail to do so without having to order from the menu, or moving to a restaurant's lounge area.

The change takes effect immediately.

"This is actually a game changer for us... We're a brand new restaurant whose business is primarily at night," Riot co-owner Nicole Tufts said in an interview Tuesday.

"We've had to sometimes turn away large groups of people who just want to come in for a drink. It's going to change everything for us because now we can just invite those people in."

Tufts only learned of the regulatory change when it came out in the media Tuesday morning.

She said they were "blown away." She's excited about how it'll benefit their Quinpool Road business.

"I think it's going to prevent a lot of people from having to



Nicole Tufts, co-owner of Riot Snack Bar, holds a pint of one of the local beers they stock at the eatery. JEFF HARPER/METRO

always go downtown. All of the business I find for night is just kind of swarming in one central location in downtown Halifax, which is great," she said.

"But we kind of lose all that business as well, so it'll be kind of cool to see if the community starts to respond and stick around their 'hood and support

these (other local) businesses as well at night now."

The change also eliminates the need for some restaurants to get a second liquor license. Riot had been in the process of trying to obtain a lounge license and now won't need one.

Brian Doherty, co-owner of the Old Triangle Irish Pub Ale-

house in downtown Halifax, also applauded the change. His establishment already has a lounge area in addition to a restaurant, but he said the "positive move" was welcome.

"I'm always delighted when old regulations are modernized, particularly when most of the world doesn't operate

on the regulatory system that we have here in Nova Scotia," Doherty said.

"When people come here visiting they want to experience the great Nova Scotian hospitality. It's a hard one to explain when they come from environments where these regulations don't exist."

+ MADD

New changes likely won't lead to impaired driving

A spokesperson for MADD Canada doesn't expect a change to the province's liquor licensing regulations to impact drinking and driving. The change came into effect Tuesday, and allows restaurant patrons to have one or two drinks without ordering food.

"These types of practices have not significantly impacted community safety in other provinces that we're aware of," said Susan MacAskill, MADD Canada's chapter services manager for the Atlantic region.

"We don't believe that they'll have negative repercussions in Nova Scotia provided the rules and regulations around alcohol service in licensed establishments and the appropriate training of servers and staff continue to be maintained and enforced."

She said MADD's messaging is consistent. Don't drink and drive, plan ahead, and call 911 if you know or suspect someone is driving intoxicated.

"Make sure that you always have a safe ride home. There's no excuse for driving impaired. Impaired injuries and deaths are 100 per cent preventable," MacAskill said.

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ANIMALS

Battle to control feral cats gets claws

Halifax regional council approved \$250,000 in funding at its meeting on Tuesday in an attempt to control the population of feral cats in the municipality.

The funding, \$50,000 annually for the next five years, will be doled out to local charity groups working to trap, neuter or spay and release feral cat colonies.

Council approved \$50,000 in similar funding last year, and is now extending the funding as a pilot project.

A staffer on hand for Tues-

day's meeting told council there is no exact count on the feral cat population in HRM, but estimates put it between 60,000 and 90,000.

\$250,000

Funding to be doled out at \$50,000 annually for the next five years to local charity groups working to trap, neuter or spay and release feral cat colonies.

People like Sonya Higgins of Healing Animal SCARS, who in the past would have to fundraise herself to get cat colonies spayed and neutered,

will now be able to trap cats and bring them to the Nova Scotia SPCA for the procedures without having to worry about funding.

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

Fear of rowdy students doesn't phase council

BYLAWS

Building across from King's College moving forward



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Despite concerns about rowdy students from a handful of nearby residents, Halifax regional council approved a residential development proposed for Coburg Road on Tuesday.

Council voted 15-1 in favour of bylaw amendments to enable the five-storey, 28-unit building at the corner of Coburg Road and Larche Street, which was brought forward by WM Fares Architects on behalf of Chris Moore.

A few nearby residents spoke out about the development, citing concerns including a lack of parking in the area (the building will only have 20 underground spots), the size of the building, and tree cover in the area.

But the main concern that emerged from would-be neighbours was who they believe will live in the building: students.

"I've had a lot of student neighbours over the years, and they've gone from the sublime to the ridiculous," Meredith Annett, who lives



A rendering of the proposed development at 6345 Coburg Rd. CONTRIBUTED

on Larche Street, told council. "And there is a lot of ridiculous out there and let me tell you, when you've got it next to you, it's really not fun."

Catherine Coady lives behind the site, and said she's concerned about noise levels in a neighbourhood that already has a large student population.

"I feel we should be concentrating on having families come to the south end, not transient people," she said. Moore, the owner, defended

+ VOTE AGAINST

Only Coun. Lindell Smith voted against bylaw amendments to enable a five-storey residential development proposed for Coburg Road after a public hearing.

his proposal, and tried to quell concerns from residents about its future inhabitants.

"We are very cautious and

careful on who we bring into our buildings," he said.

Coady asked councillors if they'd want to live next door to the proposal, and one of them addressed that question directly.

"In addition to all of those other things we talk about, the two criteria I use when looking at these are, 'Would I live in it?' and 'Would I live next to it?'" said Coun. Shawn Cleary.

"I would definitely live in it and I would live next to it."

Halifax DIGEST

GREENWOOD

Air show confirmed for air force base

Organizers of the Maritimes' annual roving air show have confirmed this year's event will be held in late August at the Royal Canadian Air Force base in Greenwood, N.S.

The Snowbirds aerobatics demonstration team is scheduled to perform during the event on Aug. 26-27 at 14 Wing Greenwood, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Air Show Atlantic organizers say the show is expected to highlight military aircraft, with plans to bring an American F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINDSOR

Car crashes through window of fur shop

The owners of Rideau Brown Furs in Windsor said they're just happy everyone is OK after an SUV drove right through their main window.

Rene Lacroix, co-owner of the store, said they're still shaken up by the event.

"I saw it as it happened," Lacroix said. "It was a client of ours, she was pulling up to pick up something and she's not really sure what happened, either her foot slipped off the brake and hit the accelerator or something."

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Internet charmed by small march in rural community

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Sandy Cove protest gains international attention

When Gwen Wilson and Melissa Merritt decided at the last minute to organize their own women's march, they were prepared to be the only ones trudging down the sole road in their rural Nova Scotia village on a grey, drizzly Saturday.

The two women who live on the Digby Neck peninsula both wanted to participate in one of the international marches to support women's rights, but would have had to travel almost three hours to get to the closest one in Halifax.

So less than 24 hours before millions of people took to the streets around the world, they issued a call to the 65 year-round residents in Sandy Cove and others in villages that dot the peninsula to join them for their own march, expecting they might be alone in their activism.

When they assembled at the assigned meeting spot — a school in Sandy Cove that has 22 students — they were stunned to see about a dozen other women, two men and a few children ready to go.

"We were ecstatic and were like, 'Oh my gosh, there's another truck coming in!'" Wilson exclaimed Tuesday. "It was just a wonderful, joyful feeling of, I don't know — it's almost indescribable the feeling that you have when people chose to participate with you and you don't even know some of them."



People take part in a women's march in Sandy Cove, Nova Scotia on Saturday Jan. 21. HANDOUT/GARY WILSON

“The lesson that I’ve learned is how many women do support each other. I’ve never been so supported ever!” Melissa Merritt

What's more, Wilson says they have been overwhelmed by the response to an eight-second video posted on their Facebook site that shows the 15 marchers laughing and ringing bells as they walk along an empty road that cuts through the fishing community. From a distance, the group can be seen marching down a

steep hill and then up another to the fire hall, waving their banners as they slosh through puddles on the narrow road.

The video has become an Internet darling, garnering more than 150,000 views, 500 comments and almost 3,000 shares.

"Your march touched me

more than any of the others I've seen. It's so often we feel we are too small to change anything. Sometimes the one lone voice is much louder than the millions. Thank you!" one woman wrote on the Facebook page.

Another said: "My boyfriend and I drove from NYC to DC to participate in the March. Now I wish I had come to Sandy Cove to march with you. Way to go!"

Wilson said the response has been moving.

"The reaction has been totally overwhelming and very humbling to know that people

want to reach out and make that connection," she said.

Both women say they just wanted to make a statement and be part of history, but have been delighted by the attention their march has drawn to the quiet community.

Merritt, one of about 30 people who lives nearby in East Ferry, said they got some funny looks from passersby during the march but were generally supported by the roughly 20 cars that passed them, including lobster trucks that blared their horns as they drove by.

The 44-year-old yoga instructor said one person pulled up to find out what was going on, questioning why they were bothering to protest U.S. President Donald Trump in a far-flung Canadian village. She said it anchored her belief in the importance of registering her disapproval of comments Trump made throughout the campaign she found racist and sexist.

"I think seeing all of these women hold each other up and be kind to each other — it's emotional," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ CIRCULATING

New York Times picks up images of marchers

Photos of the small band of marchers, some wearing telltale pink hats knit by a local resident, that were taken by Gwen Wilson's husband have been circulating online as well, even attracting the interest of The New York Times.

COURT

Acadians win fight for voice

The group that represents Nova Scotia's Acadian population says it's thrilled the provincial government has committed to redrawing the electoral map in a way that could offer the French-speaking minority better representation in the legislature.

The Acadian Federation of Nova Scotia was reacting today to an appeal court decision that says Nova Scotia's previous NDP government was wrong to force an independent commission to redraw three predominantly French-speaking ridings to have them include a larger, English-speaking population.

Since the early 1980s, each of the ridings in question had maintained a smaller-than-average population to ensure Acadians had a strong influence in elections.

In 2012, then NDP premier Darrell Dexter argued equal representation in the legislature had to take precedence over providing a voice to minority groups because voter parity is a fundamental principle of democracy.

In its decision today, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal found the provincial government violated the voting rights section of the Charter of Rights by effectively abolishing the three ridings.

Justice Minister Michel Samson says the Liberal government is planning to have an independent electoral boundaries commission re-examine the three ridings, but he says that won't happen until he talks to the Acadian federation.

Samson, an Acadian from Cape Breton, says it remains unclear whether the commission could be appointed before the next elections, which is expected as early as this spring.

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Just can't kill Keystone

ENVIRONMENT

Trump signs order reviving possibility of new pipeline

A zombie project that has spent years haunting Canada-U.S. relations in its never-born-yet-never-quite-dead state of perpetual limbo has just been given hope of life by new U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Keystone XL pipeline is alive — maybe.

Trump revived hopes for the dormant project Tuesday. He signed an executive order that could build the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline, the subject of a multi-year saga that cast a long shadow on bilateral relations.

He signed several executive orders related to infrastructure and construction, with the highest-profile one involving the pipeline that, if completed, would carry more than one-fifth of the oil Canada exports to the U.S.

The order invites pipeline-maker TransCanada Corp. to



Opponents of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines hold a rally as they protest U.S. President Donald Trump's executive orders advancing their construction, at Lafayette Park next to the White House on Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

re-submit an application for a permit. It also encourages U.S. federal regulatory agencies to respond the opposite way the Obama administration did: favourably, and quickly, within 60 days.

"(It) directs agencies to approve it without delay," Trump

spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday. "There's an energy revolution that's gonna happen in this country. In spite of the bureaucratic and political barriers that have happened in the past, we're ready to move forward."

The company issued a state-

ment several hours later confirming it would re-apply: "We are currently preparing the application and intend to do so."

But it remains far from a done deal. There's ongoing uncertainty on multiple fronts — some are anticipated legal and political fights, and others are

less-predictable wrinkles introduced Tuesday by the president himself.

The White House said its executive orders insist on two things: a better Keystone deal for U.S. taxpayers, and pipes made from U.S. steel, which could be problematic given that the parts for Keystone were already purchased, are now sitting in outdoor yards, and they include mostly foreign steel.

"We're going to renegotiate some of the terms," Trump said, as he signed the presidential order. "And if they'd like, we'll see if we can get that pipeline built."

The actual wording of those orders isn't actually that tough. It instructs the U.S. secretary of state to make a decision within 60 days, including on any new conditions that might serve the U.S. national interest.

As for the requirement to use U.S. steel, a separate presidential order sets a relatively low bar. It asks the commerce secretary to come up with a plan to use American material to the maximum extent possible, and to the maximum extent allowed by law. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau on political precipice

Justin Trudeau edged his way across a political tightrope Tuesday, doing his level best not to glance down at the perils below.

Shattered credibility on climate change and women's rights. Alienated voters in Alberta's hard-hit oilpatch. An agitated Donald Trump barring the door on cross-border trade.

Trudeau's Liberal high-wire act was on full display, whether it was as he cheered a pipeline project that's bound to aggravate environmentalists, or contemplated how best to avoid calling the U.S. president a misogynist.

First up, Trump's conditional approval of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which he said would bring badly needed jobs to the energy sector without blowing up Canada's commitments on greenhouse-gas emissions.

"We can continue to support good jobs, including in the fossil fuel industry, while we improve our emissions standards, while we innovate and develop renewable resources, while we manage the long-term transition that the planet needs to go through," Trudeau told a news conference.

Plus, he said, pipelines are a safer option than rail cars.

Captain Vancouver battles DC Comics



Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

"This is Ian, Captain Vancouver." That's how Vancouver real estate agent Ian Brett introduced himself when Metro reached him for an interview Tuesday.

But it's not his Captain Vancouver persona, named after the city's founder, George Vancouver, that has raised eyebrows at DC Comics — it's his other claim, that he is a 'Real Estate Superhero,' that has the company's lawyers

threatening to sue.

According to a letter published on Brett's website, DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero" and to stop using a red and yellow shield symbol, reminiscent of Superman's 'S'.

"While our client does not object to use of CAPTAIN VANCOUVER to promote your real estate business, use of SUPERMAN indicia and the SUPER HERO trademarks is not permissible," stated a Jan. 9, 2017 letter from Bereskin & Parr, the Canadian intellectual property law firm

representing DC Comics.

Brett's website depicts the Realtor in a blue 18th century British naval-officer outfit with a shirt underneath that features a six-point shield — but with a 'Re' for Realtor in it instead of an 'S'.

But Brett, who has worked as a full-time Realtor for four years, called DC Comics' request unfair, characterizing the fight as a David and Goliath situation.

"I don't think I should be a threat. When you see me, I don't look like Superman," he said.

He chose to call himself a 'superhero' because he believes

people want to see a change in how real estate is conducted.

Brett said he is open to negotiating with DC Comics, particularly on the shield reference. But in the meantime, he is taking a tongue-in-cheek approach to negotiating with them, writing back to Bereskin & Parr as if the firm was Superman.

He signed off on the letter with this line: "Alas Superman, fear not, you will always be the 'Man of Steel' just as I will always be the 'Man of Sales'."

Bereskin & Parr did not respond to a request for comment.



Ian Brett, or Captain Vancouver, says DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero." CONTRIBUTED

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Canada emerges as tax haven

It's called 'snow washing,' which means using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate.

Canada is quietly emerging as a popular tax haven for the global elite, who create shell companies with figurehead directors to evade or avoid taxes, a Toronto Star/CBC-Radio Canada investigation has found.

"Canada is a good place to create tax planning structures to minimize taxes like interest, dividends, capital gains, retirement income and rental income," reads a 2010 internal memo from Mossack Fonseca, the law firm behind the massive Panama Papers leak of 11.5 million documents detailing global tax avoidance and evasion.

It's called "snow washing" — using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate. A sprawling international tax avoidance industry is increasingly touting Canada as a jurisdiction for hiding wealth.

And the Canadian government has made it easier than ever for criminals and tax cheats to move money in and out by signing tax agreements with 115 coun-

tries — the greatest number in the world.

Another key reason is that Canada's corporate registration systems are shrouded in the same kind of secrecy that exists in tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands, Panama and the Bahamas. Company owners who don't wish to be identified in Canadian corporate registries can pay a lawyer or a stand-in to appear on all public filings.

Mossack Fonseca actively marketed Canada as a tax haven and established shell companies here to evade taxes, according to the documents obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

And the discredited Panamanian firm is not alone. The Maple Leaf is emblazoned on dozens of international corporate registry websites pitching the country as a legitimate option for hiding wealth. Of greatest interest to foreign investors are Canadian limited partnerships (LPs): a corporate structure that has no tax filing requirements. Only the

partners behind an LP have to file taxes, and if they're not residents of Canada, no taxes are filed here at all.

"Canada is a horrible tax haven. Everybody is now switched over from using (British Virgin Islands) companies and Cayman companies to Canadian LPs. It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world," said Mark Morris, an independent tax consultant

based in Zurich who specializes in international tax agreements.

Tax industry insiders call Canada a "white-listed" tax destination — a kind of flag of convenience for foreign-controlled shell companies with no legitimate business operations in the country.

"You've got this entity in Canada; banks or other parties in other countries are going to pre-

sume that it's legitimate and OK — pure as the driven snow of the great white north," said Toronto tax lawyer Jonathan Garbutt.

While Canadian companies must pay taxes on their worldwide incomes to the Canada Revenue Agency, Ramses Owens, Mossack Fonseca's managing director in Panama, told colleagues there's an easy way around this.

"I believe the Canada compan-

ies ... are managed in a way that the administrators simply declare annually NO-ACTIVITY. In other words, they cheat a bit," he wrote in an email in August 2010.

"It is impossible for the Canada revenue governmental system to look into such information for every single company formed in Canada ... This is risky, but we will try to provide the service."

Shortly afterward, Mossack Fonseca produced a flyer promoting Canada as a tax haven jurisdiction, offering to register a corporation for \$2,000.

Mossack Fonseca did not respond to requests for comment.

"You cannot but help look at the issue of money laundering. Having a degree of anonymity allows individuals to obfuscate," said Peter Dent, a forensic accountant and past chair of Transparency International Canada.

"Rules that allow you to obfuscate the true source of money behind transactions facilitate money laundering on a global scale." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

“
It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world.

Mark Morris, independent tax consultant

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DIGEST DAY 5

Spicer perpetuates false claims

Promoting yet another lie, the chief spokesman for U.S. President Donald Trump said Trump believes millions of illegal immigrants voted illegally in the presidential election. This did not happen.

There were fewer than a dozen claims of voter fraud

nationwide. Trump's lawyers say "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Abortion ban expanded

Trump has expanded the ban on providing federal money to international family planning groups that perform abortions or provide

abortion information to all organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance.

International organizations receiving U.S. funds for health programs will be required to certify that it does not provide abortion services, counselling, information or advocate for the liberalization of abortion laws. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JESSICA ALLEN ON THE POWER OF PROTEST



Public marches have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not the point — though there are many examples of marches that did effect tangible change

Simon asked if I wanted him to join me at the Women's March in Toronto on Saturday. Because it was my first protest, and I wasn't sure why I felt compelled to attend, I told him that I'd like to go it alone. Besides, he could stay home to do the laundry and make dinner.

When the packed streetcar stopped in front of Queen's Park, everyone on board gasped at the sight of thousands gathered on the greens and the sound of their swelling cheers. We broke out into applause before joining them.

I overheard a father delicately explaining to his young daughter what "pussy" meant, a woman telling her group that a friend of hers in Ethiopia had travelled 90 hours to get to the Women's March on Washington, and I saw another proudly take her birth-control pill.

There were protesters carrying a black cardboard coffin with "Patriarchy" painted in white on its side. There were signs that read "I can't believe I still have to protest this sh-t" and semi-absurd ones, like "We Shall Overcome." There were signs about feminism, racism, inclusivity and pipelines. I also saw a white woman holding an eagle feather, performing a smudging ceremony. For a moment, I understood why so many were dismissing the March as aimless.

But just as the crowd readied itself to move, I remembered something I'd read mid-

week: "There's been a strong hint of gendered schadenfreude in the coverage of the march's organizational problems," Jia Tolentino wrote for *newyorker.com*. "This has obscured the fact that activism is internally contentious by nature. Organization is always

er cannot say the same thing. I came for her, I told myself.

Afterwards, I floated home, where I found Simon hanging up my bras to dry. He started on dinner while I looked at social media, which was flooded with friends' celebratory images from protests in D.C.,

so much as discuss abortion with patients — every time someone tells us to give him the benefit of the doubt.

And then I saw a tweet from Stephen Taylor, the former national director of the National Citizens Coalition: "Do protestors in Toronto hope that Donald Trump will say, 'Oh, I guess Toronto is upset. I'll resign tomorrow.' What's the point?"

That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches. What made this one different?

Symbolic acts matter. Take the parade that followed Trump's inauguration. Take birthday parties! We don't need to throw a party to get older, and the parade wasn't necessary to achieve the transition of power. They're both for show. Like public marches, they have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not "the point," notwithstanding the many examples of marches throughout history, like the 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession and the 1963 March on Washington, that did effect tangible change.

The fact that the highest-ranking woman in Trump's administration, Kellyanne Conway, is the keynote speaker at this Friday's anti-abortion March for Life certainly means something. And you better believe that the same people who insist that the 600-demonstrations on Saturday didn't mean anything would be arguing the opposite if millions in the U.S. and hundreds of thousands across other countries hadn't shown up. That would've meant something.

But we did show up. And the world was watching.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.



Protesters at the Toronto women's march last Saturday show that they have a well-developed sense of symbolism.

JESSICA ALLEN/FOR METRO

tedious, and that's just fine ... Imagine any major protest in the twentieth century promoted via Facebook. There would have been no shortage of "infighting" enshrined on social media for everyone to see."

But why did I come? The Affordable Health Care Act repeal will greatly affect my U.S. friends and their families. The day after the election was the first time misogynist tweeters took dead aim at me, as though Trump's win was permission to say publicly that people who look like me shouldn't be on television. These things troubled me. As the throng began to inch forward, my throat swelled and my eyes cracked tears. I have two jobs. Both my bosses are women. I have a stay-at-home partner. I have never been sexually assaulted. But my moth-

Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Oaxaca and Florence. Most comments were supportive. Others asked: "How can you protest Trump before he's had a chance to govern? Give the man a chance!"

Answering such a question is a tedious exercise, but still worthwhile: Trump has vowed to appoint Supreme Court Justices that will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, has bragged about committing sexual assault, and wants to defund Planned Parenthood.

If you are tired of hearing this litany of complaint levelled against the commander in chief, imagine how it must feel for women who have to go through the dirty-laundry list — to which we can now add yesterday's reinstatement of the executive order banning foreign aid to NGOs that

Trump benefitting from waning U.S. influence



Thomas Walkom

Donald Trump can be thin-skinned and obnoxious. He plays fast and loose with the facts. He has adopted much of the worst of the Republican agenda, including opposition to women's reproductive rights.

No wonder so many people — including so many Canadians — detest the new U.S. president.

But he is also oddly realistic. His America First rhetoric may conjure up memories of 1930s isolationism. It may signal a retreat to Fortress America.

But it also reflects what is going on. America no longer dominates the Western world in the way it once did.

The signs are everywhere. In the Middle East, it is not the U.S. that is brokering an end to the devastating Syrian civil war. Rather that role has been taken on by Russia, Iran and Turkey.

In the Korean peninsula, it has become clear that any solution to the problem of a nuclear-armed North lies not in Washington but Beijing.

Even America's former colony, the Philippines, is pivoting away from the U.S. and toward China.

Economic integration? Trump officially killed the Trans Pacific Partnership this week. But he was merely delivering the coup de grace.

Opposition to the deal was so strong in the U.S. that even Democratic Party presidential contender Hillary Clinton, a former fan, vowed to kill it.

Meanwhile, China is forging ahead to create its own economic zone. Its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank,

which the U.S. has refused to join, now has 57 members — including Britain, Germany and France. Canada is applying to sign on.

Trump has questioned NATO's relevance, at one point calling it "obsolete." He's also called it "very important to me."

How the president squares these remarks is not entirely clear. But he is not the first to question the need for a military alliance set up to counter a Soviet Union that no longer exists.

Those who see Vladimir Putin's Russia as a modern-day version of the U.S.S.R. argue that NATO remains desperately relevant. But Trump doesn't appear to share those views. Indeed, he appears to think that Russia should be granted the same leeway in its backyard that the U.S., via the Monroe Doctrine, claims for itself in the Americas.

More to the point, he is reluctant to foot so much of the bill for an alliance that may no longer suit U.S. requirements.

And that is the key to what may eventually be called the Trump Doctrine: America's position in the world has changed.

The crisis of 2008-09 demonstrated that America alone is no longer able to solve global economic problems. The election of Trump showed that American workers are no longer willing to assume that what suits U.S. business will suit them.

The rise and decline of great powers is rarely neat. My guess is that America Firster Trump will intervene far more in the world than his critics think.

Still, these days, international leadership is not something the U.S. can so easily afford.

'What's the point?'
That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches.

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Lin-Manuel Miranda is getting closer to 'EGOT' status, thanks to his Oscar nomination for best original song. The Hamilton creator, who has already won an Emmy, two Grammys and three Tonys, picked up a nod for How Far I'll Go from the animated film Moana.



Oscars not so white

After a badly needed push in the right direction, the Academy Awards recognize that there's nothing as diverse as talent

OSCARS LOWDOWN

3

Viola Davis is now the first African-American actress to score three Academy Award nominations.

\$100M

None of the best picture nominees has yet grossed more than \$100 million in the U.S. The film Arrival comes closest with \$95.7 million.



Among the Canadians earning Oscar nods is Theodore Ushev for best animated short, and a number of the Arrival crew including producer Shawn Levy and director Denis Villeneuve.

Viola Davis is up for best supporting actress for her role in Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation, Fences. She was previously nominated for Doubt in 2009 and The Help in 2012. CONTRIBUTED

Peter Howell
Torstar News Service

There were few surprises and even fewer snubs among Tuesday's diverse nominees for the 89th Academy Awards, which is exactly as it should have been.

There's not a single undeserved nomination amongst the lot of them, even if academy voters rightly felt pressure to address the dearth of non-white actors in two previous years of nominations.

Sometimes a little push is needed to get people to do the right thing.

As predicted by pundits and earlier wins, Damien Chazelle's

Hollywood ode La La Land topped the golden list with 14 nominations, including best picture, director, actor (Ryan Gosling) and actress (Emma Stone), tying Titanic (1997) and All About Eve (1950) for the Oscar noms record.

The singing-and-dancing sensation also breaks the record for most nominated musical, set a half-century ago by Mary Poppins, which had 13 nods.

Tied as the closest challengers to La La Land, with eight nominations apiece including Best Picture and Director, are Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama Moonlight and Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi thriller Arrival.

The other six Best Picture nominees — Manchester by the

Sea, Fences, Lion, Hidden Figures, Hacksaw Ridge and Hell or High Water — make for a total of nine, one more than last year and all of them dramas.

Most significant of all is the large amount of diversity in the nominations, even if leader La La Land has a mostly white cast and features Gosling as a defender of jazz, a musical form created by African-Americans and Indigenous North Americans.

Seven of the 20 acting nominees are people of colour, while four of the nine Best Picture contenders — Moonlight, Fences, Lion and Hidden Figures — tell diverse stories with non-white actors in most of the leading roles.

After two years when visible

minorities were conspicuously absent from the Oscar leaders board, this is a welcome development, if also a completely expected one.

The nominations seemed to please April Reign, the New York writer and editor who coined the #OscarsSoWhite Twitter hashtag that helped push a foot-dragging academy into making needed changes to promote diversity, including increasing the number of non-white voters.

"Some surprises, some spot-on decisions... Things are changing because our voices are strongest together," Reign wrote in a pair of tweets.

It was particularly gratifying to see Oscar nominations for

Moonlight's Barry Jenkins, and also Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris in the respective best supporting actor and actress categories, three of the reasons why this wonderfully wise film topped my list of best movies of 2016.

It's also great to see Meryl Streep get her record 20th Oscar nomination for playing a tone-deaf singer in Florence Foster Jenkins.

It's a nomination she likely gained not only for her considerable talent but also in appreciation of her marvellous rip into Donald Trump's xenophobic ways at the Golden Globes earlier this month, who retaliated by childishly calling her "one of the most overrated actresses in

Hollywood."

Also nice are the long-overdue best actress nod for Isabelle Huppert (Elle) and best actor nom for Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic), indicating that the academy is willing to recognize overlooked actors of any colour.

What few snubs there were — the acting MIA list include Tom Hanks for Sully, Amy Adams for Arrival, Annette Bening for 20th Century Women — are fewer in number than in previous years and not unexpected in a year so rich with talent.

Oscar can't get everything right. But at least this year, it got the most important thing right, by recognizing that talent doesn't just come in one colour.

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Salute the kernel and add a little more pop to your movie nights

RECIPES

Cuddle up on the couch with a bowl of these stellar snacks

Ricardo Larrivée
For Torstar News Service

Fluff up your pillows, slip on your sweats, cue up a favourite flick and take movie night to the next level with these three popcorn recipes. Your kids will never look at the old-school snack the same way again.

Plus, they can easily help make these three fun flavours — all you'll need to do is supervise. We suggest making them all — spicy barbecue, tangy ketchup and caramelized brown sugar — so that everyone can mix and match.

Best of all, if there's any left (unlikely), it'll keep for days in an airtight container so you can do it all over again next weekend.

Sweet popcorn

Makes four cups.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) lightly packed brown sugar

Directions:

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to



If there are any leftovers, these popcorn bowls will keep for days afterward. RICARDO LARRIVÉE

350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and brown sugar, stirring frequently. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking

sheet to dry.

5. Popcorn will keep for 1 week in an airtight container or sealable bag.

BBQ popcorn

Makes four cups.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) chili powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) garlic salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) cayenne pepper, or to taste

Directions:

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan, melt butter with chili powder, paprika, garlic salt and cayenne pepper. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

5. Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

Ketchup popcorn

Makes four cups.

Ingredients:

- 8 cups (2 L) plain popcorn
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) salted butter
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) paprika
- 1 tsp (5 mL) onion salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) garlic salt

Directions:

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan, melt butter with ketchup, salt, paprika, onion salt and garlic salt. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for about 10 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking, or until popcorn is dry to the touch.

5. Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

Even Burns would sip on a can of pure poetry

While he may not inspire the same celebratory enthusiasm as Saint Patrick, Scots across the country will most certainly be raising a glass of something Scottish to Robert Burns today.

No doubt a bit of whisky will be in order for many with ties to Scotland (even if it's just having seen Braveheart). Though I love myself a nice dram, the quarter of me that's Scottish prefers a beer on a weekday.

A few years ago I spent some time with Douglas Gunn Sharp, the mastermind behind Innis & Gunn Original (500ml, \$2.95-\$3.99) and its many oak-aged offspring. At a pub below Edinburgh Castle he told me about the origin of his famous brew.

Commissioned to create flavoured barrels for William Grant in which to age their whisky, Sharp was surprised to discover the resulting oak-infused beer was a hit with workers assigned to pour it down the drain.

A malty mix of toffee, vanilla and citrus, it's pours like liquid poetry which Robert Burns would have appreciated.

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The Northwood Broadcasting Club filled a void and spread throughout the Maritimes. CONTRIBUTED

NWBC

Broadcasting club a hit with older listeners

Jen Taplin

Hearing a special song can flood in so many warm memories.

Every weekday morning a group of Halifax seniors volunteer their time to broadcast a special radio show to over 30,000 people throughout the Maritimes. The Northwood Broadcasting Club (NWBC) plays those meaningful songs, along with companionable conversation while taking requests and acknowledging anniversaries and birthdays.

"For some people it's a daily ritual," said John Verlinden, corporate director at Northwood who has been involved in the club for 19 years. "They really enjoy listening to the music, but more than that, NWBC take a lot of requests so they're calling in

to the radio station, connecting with the broadcasters."

For seniors who are mostly house-bound, listening and calling in to the program is a real highlight of their day, he added. It's music they know and love, and can't find anywhere else.

It started in 1987 when a Dartmouth radio station, CFDR, switched from easy-listening music to a mainstream format. Seniors living at Northwood asked for a radio program within the facility. They raised money, received a big donation of old records from CFDR, and launched the NWBC. The response was so huge, NWBC eventually expanded to encompass the Maritimes through Eastlink TV.

Since it's on TV, listings and information directed at seniors plays in a loop.

Jim Francis is president of the club and broadcasts a show called Newfie Brew with his wife Bea.

"We do special things that mean a lot to our listening audience like in memoriam for people who have passed on

HEAR IT HERE

The NWBC broadcast airs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday to Friday on Eastlink Television channel 10 (610 HD).

Some of the programs: Sunday Serenade, Musical Treasures, Charts of Yesteryear, Down Memory Lane, Country Favourites, and Say it with Music.

recently or it could have been 15, 20 years ago," he said.

Francis, who had radio experience before joining the club 12 years ago, said the best part of broadcasting is hearing from his audience.

"It's the satisfaction when we get a call 'we love your show and we really enjoy how you people think of us seniors because we have nowhere else to go, we sit by that radio every morning.'"

The gratitude from listeners keeps the volunteers going, Francis added.

Discover the Fountain of Health

Changing attitudes and misconceptions about aging is a tall order, but a ground-breaking initiative created in Halifax is tackling this issue head on. With a happy face.

Fountain of Health (FOH) — one of the first senior's mental health promotion projects of its kind — grew out of the geriatric psychiatry program at Dalhousie University in 2010. It snowballed over the years with the inclusion of several partners and funding to become a national project in 2016.

Pamela Fancey works at the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging at Mount Saint Vincent University and sits the (FOH) advisory board. She said they wanted to get involved with this project because it aims to improve mental health by bringing awareness to long-held attitudes and understanding of aging.

FOH is a web site loaded with easily digestible suggestions for improving life for seniors backed by scientific proof. For example, the FOH web site says brains are not actually prewired to fail, and depression and senility are not a part of aging. Also many health problems and diseases are not due to age but



National project shows aging positively is possible. iSTOCK

an inactive lifestyle.

"It's really trying to get us to rethink our thinking about aging," Fancey said. "One of our key things is making sure knowledge is transferred out in different ways to the community but it can't be in academic language and jargon. We have to show it's scientifically based, but in a reasonable, accessible language."

Besides the web site, there are also FOH workshops and speaking engagements to get

the word out, and not just to the public but to doctors and researchers as well.

The FOH prescription for a better life is broken down into five key actions: positive thinking, social activity, physical activity, mental health and life-long learning. There's also a quiz on the web site to measure your positive aging lifestyle.

"There are a variety of ways, with the quiz, and the five different ways, to encourage them to assess themselves and set goals," Fancey said. JEN TAPLIN

STAY POSITIVE

"Only 25 per cent of your life expectancy is due to your family genes — much more is due to your outlook and lifestyle. Positive thinking really just means paying attention to what you are grateful for and noticing the meaning and purpose in your life. An optimistic outlook makes healthy habits more likely to grow and this combination is the special formula for optimal aging." — fountainofhealth.ca



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Medical issues? You may need a driving test

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE

What happens when you need extra driver evaluation

Jen Taplin

This kind of driver's test is much different than the one you took as a teenager.

Many older adults with medical issues get a referral by their doctors for a special driver evaluation program.

Occupational therapist Tobi Flewwelling works with anyone aged 15 to 100 who has medical concerns and needs extra testing for their driver's license. Many of the people who go through the evaluation are seniors who have had a stroke, have mild dementia, multiple sclerosis or many other conditions.

It starts with a questionnaire and a physical range-of-motion exercise.

"We want to measure how strong their grip is with their hands and we measure how fast their foot moves from gas

to brake," she said.

If people can't operate a standard car, that's not the end of the road. Flewwelling said they have a number of solutions. For example, if someone can't use their right foot, they can get a left foot gas pedal installed.

"And if you can't use your feet, we have hand controls or if you can't hold onto the steering wheel, we have knobs for you to hold on to," she said.

There's also a cognitive test that evaluates thinking skills like scanning, divided attention, and visual perception.

"Once we gather all of that information then we take them on the road."

They go out in a specialized car where the instructor also has a brake pedal and head out to Point Pleasant Park. The driver does a loop in the parking lot and they then take a route through the city depending on the comfort level of the driver.

"We take a break half way through to give them feedback. We want to give them the opportunity to correct any mistakes they're making," she said.

"Often people will do things they've been doing for 20 years and they have no idea they were doing it incorrectly."



Some medical conditions mean you'll need to take extra testing for your driver's license. ISTOCK

+ A REFRESHER

Even older adults who have a clean bill of health can benefit from a driving refresher course.

As we age our night vision changes along with our ability to react to glare, Flewwelling said.

"Night time poses a lot of problems with glare and field of vision," she said.

There are also lots of rule changes throughout the years that are tough to keep up on. Driving schools offer refresher classes for anyone for about \$50-\$60.

"That's a great thing for anyone to do," Flewwelling said.

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The fee for testing in the Driver Evaluation Program.



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SKI ATLANTIC SENIORS CLUB

President of club didn't take up skiing until he was 54

Jen Taplin

This ski club has nearly 9,000 members, but it's exclusive: you have to be over 60 to join.

The Ski Atlantic Seniors Club has been getting seniors on the slopes for almost three decades. Membership comes with a pass to seven ski hills in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I.

The club was launched by avid skier Kell Antoft in 1989 with the goal of getting seniors active and outside, as well as enjoying the social interaction with other skiers.

"It's a win-win scenario as far as I can see," said Robert Atkinson, club president.

"It's good for the hill because most of the seniors prefer skiing Monday to Friday. We don't like line-ups because I guess we're getting crankier in our older age and we don't like



The Ski Atlantic Seniors Club was launched in 1989 and now includes nearly 9,000 members who are age 60 plus. CONTRIBUTED

to wait."

On a weekday, Atkinson said he skis down the hill right to the lift to go back up, but on the weekend it could be a half-hour wait to get on the lift.

"I didn't take up skiing until I was 54, a year before I retired

and I'm 65 now," he said. "I enjoy the thrill of coming down the hill. Before I used to cross-country ski and there wasn't enough speed and control."

He gets a kick out of heading out the door early on a crisp winter morning to find a few

inches of fresh snow, Atkinson said. He goes skiing about three days a week.

"The Maritimes don't get much for powder and when you're going down it's basically rattling on ice, but (on fresh snow) it is silent and you make

a turn and just hear a gentle swoosh."

The club welcomes everyone: seniors who have never skied before or those who used to ski when they were younger but life got in the way. Plus, many seniors are taking up

"We have one guy who is still actively skiing and he's 91 ... a couple of women know him quite well and they said he doesn't bother to turn much. He finds it too much of an effort to turn, so he just goes straight down."

Robert Atkinson, Ski Atlantic Seniors Club president

skiing to teach their grand kids, Atkinson said.

"Now they are retired they have more free time and they want to get out, get some exercise and socialize with people so they come back to skiing," Atkinson said.

There's also ski instruction and plenty of opportunities to socialize.



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RX 350 shines on the highway



REVIEW

Quiet, comfy, and it handles great in a snowstorm

Lucas Cooney
AutoGuide.com

I took a 2017 Lexus RX 350 to take me and a cameraman up north for a story for sister site ATV.com.

While a more performance-oriented Lexus might have been a better match for the sporty side-by-side ATV, an unexpected snowstorm during our four-hour drive made me thankful for the burlier 2017 Lexus RX 350.

Like many people, I'm a torn on the outward appearance of the RX. While I do like the general shape and form of the vehicle, it's in need of a nose job. The giant grille up front was the first thing my wife noticed, and it wasn't because she loved it. It certainly stands out, just not in a good way.

The test car was equipped with gorgeous 20-inch alloy wheels, which come as part of the F-Sport Series 3 package. The wheels help make the RX a nice looking vehicle, so long as you only see it in profile.

Step inside the RX and there are few complaints with the beautiful interior. Highlights include F-Sport seats wrapped in leather that offer both heating and cooling, a heated and leather-wrapped steering wheel, aluminum sport pedals, and a

panoramic glass roof. The optional 15-speaker Mark Levinson audio system is the cherry on top of the sundae.

It's on the highway where this vehicle really shines. Even at highway speeds, the RX offers a luxuriously quiet and comfortable ride as the 295-horsepower V6 smoothly eats up kilometre after kilometre of snowy road.

Due to the storm, the wind was occasionally violent and the RX would sway a little but it never felt out of control.

When the lanes were largely clear of snow, the lane keep assist feature did a remarkably good job of keeping the vehicle between the lines. This feature was far more active during the windy drive up north than in the calmer conditions on the return trip.

The RX was not quite as at home in the city. That uber-comfortable suspension on the highway seems to come at the cost of a slightly sloppy feeling while taking tighter turns on city streets or braking even slightly aggressively.

Because I'm cheap, I spent most of my time driving the RX in Eco mode. That worked just fine on the highway, but in the city, it turned the engine into a dullard with a painfully slow response.

Going against my skinflint instincts, I briefly took advantage of the F-Sport Series 3 package's Sport S+ Mode and the personality changed dramatically. An RX will never be truly sporty, but the Sport S+ Mode really livens things up and makes the RX, dare I say it, sort of fun when taking off from a dead stop.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 LEXUS RX 350

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.5L V6
Power: 295 hp, 267 lb-ft
Transmission: Eight-speed auto
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 12.2 city, 8.9 hwy
Price: Starts at \$55,900



LOVE IT

- Ultra quiet interior
- Comfortable ride
- Loaded with cool features

LEAVE IT

- Fugly nose
- A bit dull (except in Sport S+ Mode)
- Terrible infotainment interface

INNOVATION

Volvo to share its autonomous car data with other companies



Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

Volvo has been at the forefront of self-driving cars, and the Swedish company isn't being selfish with its expertise.

The automaker has a pilot project for autonomous cars called Drive Me, where a family could lease a self-driving XC90 that records various data about their driving habits and how they interact with the car.

During an interview at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show with

Marcus Rothoff, Volvo's Autonomous Driving Program Director, he explained that having data on how humans interact with real self-driving vehicles is vital to the program's success.

He said Volvo plans on sharing that information with other automakers to expedite research in autonomous cars.

"Collaboration is important when it comes to safety," Rothoff said. Volvo has a special place in the automotive safety history books because it shared one of the most important safety innovations in vehicles: the

three-point safety belt.

"We welcome the chance to work with other automakers to improve the safety and development of self-driving vehicles."

Rothoff imagines a future where the vehicle-to-cloud infrastructure that is used by Volvo is adopted by other automakers. Volvo hopes to have fully autonomous vehicles by 2021.

The Volvo XC90 that is being leased as part of the Drive Me program will be capable of automatically driving on the highway.

It uses a variety of sensors and a front bumper mounted LIDAR, in addition to a cloud-connected service that will allow the vehicle to send data to other Volvos.

That means that whenever the ABS and stability control is activated, like in slippery driving situations, other Volvos will be warned about the potentially dangerous route. Additionally, as the car drives autonomously on the highway, it will alert the driver of the upcoming off ramp, and the deactivation of the self-driving mode will begin five minutes

in advance, issuing plenty of notice for when the driver has to take control.

The Swedish automaker is partnered with Uber for a self-driving collaboration, as they provide XC90s to the ride-sharing service. Uber, however, uses its own software and collects its own data.

This isn't the first time automakers are sharing research and data in order to benefit the greater good.

Tesla and Toyota have both opened up their own patents on electric and hybrid cars for other automakers to use.



We welcome the chance to work with other automakers to improve the safety and development of self-driving vehicles

Marcus Rothoff



DODGE
CARAVAN KIDS
PHOTO COURTESY OF JAGUAR RACING CANADA

While customers read the fine print: 0.0, 0.4, 1.1, 1.4, 1.7, 2.0, 2.3, 2.6, 2.9, 3.2, 3.5, 3.8, 4.1, 4.4, 4.7, 5.0, 5.3, 5.6, 5.9, 6.2, 6.5, 6.8, 7.1, 7.4, 7.7, 8.0, 8.3, 8.6, 8.9, 9.2, 9.5, 9.8, 10.1, 10.4, 10.7, 11.0, 11.3, 11.6, 11.9, 12.2, 12.5, 12.8, 13.1, 13.4, 13.7, 14.0, 14.3, 14.6, 14.9, 15.2, 15.5, 15.8, 16.1, 16.4, 16.7, 17.0, 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 18.2, 18.5, 18.8, 19.1, 19.4, 19.7, 20.0, 20.3, 20.6, 20.9, 21.2, 21.5, 21.8, 22.1, 22.4, 22.7, 23.0, 23.3, 23.6, 23.9, 24.2, 24.5, 24.8, 25.1, 25.4, 25.7, 26.0, 26.3, 26.6, 26.9, 27.2, 27.5, 27.8, 28.1, 28.4, 28.7, 29.0, 29.3, 29.6, 29.9, 30.2, 30.5, 30.8, 31.1, 31.4, 31.7, 32.0, 32.3, 32.6, 32.9, 33.2, 33.5, 33.8, 34.1, 34.4, 34.7, 35.0, 35.3, 35.6, 35.9, 36.2, 36.5, 36.8, 37.1, 37.4, 37.7, 38.0, 38.3, 38.6, 38.9, 39.2, 39.5, 39.8, 40.1, 40.4, 40.7, 41.0, 41.3, 41.6, 41.9, 42.2, 42.5, 42.8, 43.1, 43.4, 43.7, 44.0, 44.3, 44.6, 44.9, 45.2, 45.5, 45.8, 46.1, 46.4, 46.7, 47.0, 47.3, 47.6, 47.9, 48.2, 48.5, 48.8, 49.1, 49.4, 49.7, 50.0, 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These Phantoms are covered in gold

MANUFACTURING

Jeep confirms Wagoneer, Wrangler pickup in the works

Jeep has announced a total \$1-billion U.S. investment in plants in Michigan and Ohio, adding 2,000 new American jobs. Jeep is also confirming the addition of new models to its lineup including a Jeep pickup truck, Jeep Wagoneer, and Grand Wagoneer. The Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer models will be produced at the Warren Truck Assembly Plant in Michigan. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



NETWORKS

Netflix nabs Seinfeld's car show

With Amazon Prime outbidding Netflix for Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May's show and turning it into The Grand Tour, it seems Netflix directed its attention towards Jerry Seinfeld and his Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee. After spending nine years on Crackle, Seinfeld will debut a new season of his show late this year with 24 episodes on Netflix. The streaming service will also offer previous episodes. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



PORSCHE

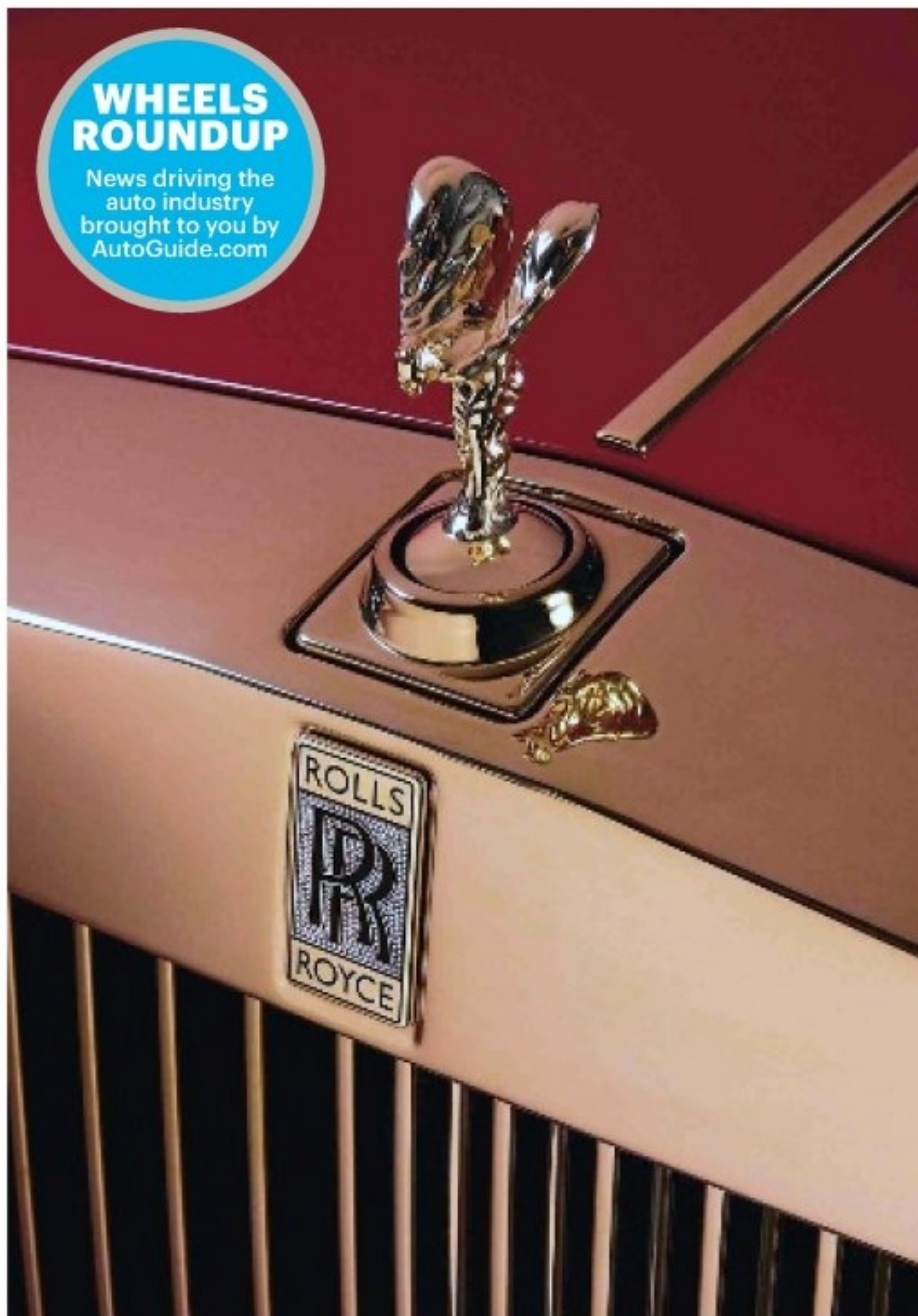
911 GTS models get turbo power

Porsche is launching five new 911 GTS models, including rear- and four-wheel drive versions of the Carrera and Carrera Cabriolet, bringing the 911 lineup to a staggering 25 variants. Joining the Carrera GTS models is a new Targa 4 GTS, rounding out a 911 lineup that now includes more than two dozen variations of Porsche's quintessential sports car. All new GTS models will get power from the twin-turbocharged six-cylinder used throughout the 911 range this side of the 911 Turbo, with output rated at 450 horsepower and 405 lb-ft of torque. DAN ILIKA/AUTOGUIDE.COM



WHEELS ROUNDUP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com



ROLLS ROYCE

The most expensive Phantoms ever

The 13 Hotel in Macau will feature a fleet of 30 Rolls-Royce Phantoms, two of which are extra special. Those two vehicles will serve as flagships and have been infused with 24-karat gold on both the exterior and the interior, making them the most expensive Rolls-Royce Phantoms ever built at the time of commissioning. All 30 vehicles were commissioned by Stephen Hung, joint chairman of The 13 Holdings Limited, reflecting his bold vision that can also be seen in the design scheme of the hotel. During the painting of the two special cars, the British automaker installed new and specialist equipment at the Surface Finish Centre at the Rolls-Royce Global Centre of Excellence in Goodwood. This was to ensure no contamination would occur during the painting process. To make them look exquisite, the finish uses 250 per cent more paint than other Phantoms, resulting in 10 layers with one featuring a 40-micron deep layer of gold, combined with glass and aluminum for an alluring shimmer. Not surprisingly, the iconic Spirit of Ecstasy emblem at the front of the vehicle is also 24-karat gold plated, further complementing the gold-colored Pantheon Grille and Rolls-Royce badge. Making it even more excessive are 336 brilliant-cut diamonds that surround the signature RR emblem. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

+ IN BRIEF

Control your Genesis from a watch

A Genesis smartwatch app is now available for the Apple Watch and Android Wear. The new app allows Genesis owners to control their vehicles straight from a smartwatch and is called the Genesis Intelligent Assistant App. Functions on the app include remote start with climate control, remote engine stop, remote door lock/unlock, remote horn and/or lights, car finder, vehicle status and parking meter. Like most smartwatch apps, all the commands can be controlled with your voice. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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2018 Mustang gets big updates

NEW RELEASES

Goodbye V6, hello 10-speed automatic transmission



Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Speculation was running rampant among the small group milling around the otherwise empty Ford display on the second preview day of the Detroit Auto Show.

A mysterious invite had us gathered early that morning before the show had even opened for the short trek from downtown Detroit to the automaker's product development center in nearby Dearborn, Mich., for an "embargoed product news backgrounder." With a description about as vague as the clutch pedal in the Subaru Crosstrek, our ever-inquisitive minds couldn't help but wander.

It didn't take long after we arrived, and agreed to leave our



While the new Mustang offers some serious tweaks, consumers will have to wait until 2020 for an outright redesign. HANDOUT

cameras and cellphones at the door or risk being tackled by William Clay Ford Jr. himself, that the cat—or, perhaps more appropriately, pony—was out of the bag: The 2018 Ford Mustang will soon be here, bringing with it some serious changes.

While it's not the all-new Mustang that some of you have been hoping for—for that you'll have to wait until 2020—the car does receive some significant styling tweaks both inside and out.

Starting outside, it's clear the design team's directive was to

fine-tune what has largely been a well-received retro look.

No one piece of the Mustang's aesthetic puzzle has been radically revamped for 2018, with a handful of incremental changes made instead.

A new front fascia has a slight-

+ INTERIOR

The cabin features a largely unchanged appearance outside of some new materials and finishes.

■ The biggest difference inside comes by way of the available digital display that replaces the car's gauge cluster. Much like Audi's Virtual Cockpit, the 12.3-inch screen can be configured and reconfigured to prioritize performance-related info.

ly more modern look, while the nose has been raked a little steeper, leading to a hoodline that has been lowered for a sleeker profile.

Around back, the 2018 Ford Mustang gets a new set of tail lights and trunk applique that complement a revised rear bumper replete with available quad exhaust tips.

When it comes to performance, a lot has been done in terms of upgrades. The big news

under the hood involves the Mustang's V6, or lack thereof, with Ford finally giving the aging Cyclone engine the axe. Currently the entry-level engine offered in both coupe and convertible versions of the pony car, the 3.7-litre V6 was rendered obsolete by the increasingly popular turbocharged four-cylinder that was added to the sixth-gen car.

In its stead remain the 2.3-litre EcoBoost and the tried-and-true 5.0-litre V8 that's become as synonymous with the Mustang as its galloping-horse emblem.

The former, which makes 310 horsepower and 320 lb-ft of torque in the current Mustang running 93-octane or better, will see its torque count and full-throttle performance increased for 2018, according to Ford. Don't, however, expect anything in the neighborhood of the outrageous Ford Focus RS, which uses the same turbocharged engine to make 350 horsepower and 350 lb-ft of torque.

Also making major—though largely expected—news is the inclusion of a 10-speed automatic transmission on the 2018 Ford Mustang's option sheet.

WHEELS BRIEFS

Chevy Reveals Huge LEGO Batmobile

We've seen automakers sharing LEGO models of their lineups, but we haven't seen anything to this scale before.

Chevrolet, in co-operation with Warner Brothers and DC Comics has revealed a huge model of the LEGO Batmobile from the upcoming LEGO Batman movie. Revealed at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show, this 17-foot long LEGO Batmobile is no mere toy, and is constructed with 344,187 LEGO blocks.

The entire car took 222 hours to design and 1,833 hours to build by LEGO Master Builders in Enfield, Conn.

SAMI HAJ-ASSAAD/AUTOGUIDE.COM

Dodge Demon drops pounds in the name of performance

Dodge continues its slow release of information on the upcoming Challenger Demon, revealing that car will shed pounds on its quest for crazy performance.

The Demon will be lighter than the Hellcat. The teaser video suggests that small changes have been

made to many parts of the car, including the wheels, steering, suspension, brakes, interior and more to cut that weight. No other details are out yet on the Demon, besides Dodge saying that it will outperform the Hellcat, which means we can expect even more than 707 horsepower from a big V8.

STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

Largest MINI ever is now also the most powerful

The new MINI John Cooper Works Countryman features the most powerful engine ever to be fitted in a MINI.

Late last year, the British automaker introduced its second-generation Countryman as the biggest and most versatile model in MINI's entire range.

Now, the MINI John Cooper Works Countryman with 228 horsepower is the most powerful and is combined with the standard all-wheel-drive system ALL4. With a zero-to-97 km/h time of 6.2 seconds with either the standard six-speed manual transmission or optional eight-speed Steptronic Sport Automatic transmission.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

INNOVATION

Mazda's new high-tech engine said to cut fuel use by a third



Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Mazda is coming out with a new high-tech engine that the company says will cut fuel consumption in vehicles by a third.

Mazda is set to introduce a new engine at the end of 2018 that uses pressure instead of spark plugs to ignite fuel, a technology the Japanese automaker says will increase fuel economy by 30 per cent.

The engine will be the first practical use of the technology, which is called homogeneous charge compression ignition.

By igniting the mix of air and fuel by subjecting them to pressure, the new engine will make combustion more efficient than conventional motors featuring spark plugs. The technology will also reduce exhaust emissions.

Expect Mazda to first use the new engine in the next-generation Mazda3 before it is gradually rolled out to other models in the company's lineup.



The next generation of Skyactiv engines will reduce exhaust emissions. BRIAN EARLY

The company says it represents the next generation of its Skyactiv suite of environmentally friendly technologies.

As for electrified Mazdas, look for the Japanese automaker to begin mass producing EVs by 2019 and a plug-in hybrid introduced by 2021.

+ IT CONTINUES

Although electric vehicles and hybrids are becoming increasingly popular, the company believes that the internal combustion engine will live on for the foreseeable future and its investment into a new engine reinforces that idea.



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REDESIGNED FOR 2017

The 2017 Sportage resembles the 2016 model, yet there are plenty of differences, including the more rounded front clip with an enlarged grille, larger air intakes and new headlight pods. In back, the liftgate's larger glass area improves visibility, while a slightly lower load floor makes cargo handling easier.

Although the Sportage looks stubbier, Kia claims it's actually more aerodynamic and roomier inside. For example, the cargo area behind the split-folding rear seat has been upped by nearly 18 per cent. The platform was also strengthened and lightened and the front and rear suspensions have been updated. As well, the steering has been revised for more precision and driver feedback. Returning only slightly revised are the base non-turbo and turbocharged four-cylinder engines that have been adjusted for improved fuel economy.

All-wheel-drive is available no matter the engine and increases fuel consumption only slightly. The system includes a locking differential that splits the torque equally between the front and rear wheels, which is intended for more severe excursions. All models are well-equipped, but the top performer SX Turbo comes with a 320-watt Harmon Kardon stereo, panoramic sunroof, and a full suite of crash-avoiding safety technology.



SPORTAGE

Base Price (incl. destination): \$26,700



CONTRIBUTED

KIA'S FIRST GAS-ELECTRIC HYBRID

New for 2017 — Kia claims that the launch of its first gas-electric hybrid model will be the first of what will become a number of similarly powered models, all sporting the Niro brand.

Physically the car is similar in size to the Kia Forte 5 wagon and Toyota Prius, the latter being appropriate since Kia plans on taking direct aim at Toyota in the hybrid segment. In designing the compact hatchback/wagon, the focus was on keeping the weight down to a bare minimum.

The tactics employed to accomplish this included an aluminum hood and liftgate, alu-

minum suspension parts, lighter-weight seat frames and a significantly lighter lithium-ion polymer 12-volt battery. Even the brake pedal is made of carbon-fiber-reinforced plastic. The powertrain's 103-horsepower four-cylinder engine is mated to a 43-horsepower electric motor that together produce 146 horsepower.

Unlike traditional (read: Toyota) hybrids, the Niro uses a six-speed twin-clutch automatic to transmit power to the front wheels instead of a continuously variable transmission (CVT). Among the numerous Niro options are a range of communications and collision-avoiding alerts and interventions.

KIA NIRO

Base Price (including destination): \$28,000



A MINOR REFRESH AND A MORE POWERFUL ENGINE

The quirky Soul is one of those hard-to-describe cars that owes its popularity to the way it looks as much as how much it can carry and how much it costs.

SOUL

Base Price (including destination): \$18,900

It's the kind of vehicle that's just begging for some added performance and for 2017, its wish has been granted in the form of a turbocharged 201-horsepower 1.6-litre engine. That's a 37-horsepower jump from the previous top-dog powerplant. The new turbo operates through a quick shifting seven-speed twin-clutch (automated manual) transmission. The turbo also gets its own front-end design that differs from the revised one on other 2017s. For the time



CONTRIBUTED

being the base 130- and optional 164-horse I-4 remain available, as does the pure electric Soul EV. It's equipped with an electric motor that's officially rated with a range of 150 kilometres

before its lithium-ion-polymer batteries require recharging. Souls can be equipped with just about every option in the book, which speaks to the car's wide range of buyers.

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"It's been a (lousy) 2017 so far": LeBron James urged his front office to do more after the Cavs fell to 5-6 in 2017 with Monday's loss in New Orleans

Oilers' other must-see star

NHL

Oilers' German star studied the game religiously as a junior

Leon Draisaitl couldn't get enough of the National Hockey League when he first came to North America.

A German teenager living in the small city of Prince Albert, Sask., and playing for the local Western Hockey League team, Draisaitl said he consumed more hockey than his billet Carole Ring had ever seen — and she'd been hosting players for decades.

"I'm sure some nights she wanted to watch something else, but that wasn't OK with me," Draisaitl said with a laugh.

Though sometimes lost in the shadow of Connor McDavid, Draisaitl is already a starring attraction himself for the Edmonton Oilers. The 21-year-old is right there among the league's top-20 scorers this season with 17 goals and 42 points in 49 games. He'll soon eclipse the impressive 19 goals and 51 points he managed in his rookie campaign.

Germany has produced less than 20 full-time NHL players, but hockey has always been in Draisaitl's bones. His father, Peter, was a long-time centre and coach who helped Leon develop an intuition for the game.

"He just always seems to find the right words for me, whether it was giving a tap on the back or giving me a tip," said the younger Draisaitl, who still talks to



Young Oilers Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid are thriving on a line together in Edmonton.

CODIE MCLACHLAN/GETTY IMAGES

his dad after every game. "But also my parents in general, my sister too, the hours they spent in ice-cold German crappy rinks.

"I'd be nowhere near where I am without them right now."

The family — which includes his mom Sandra and sister Kim — visited Edmonton during the Oilers' recent six-game home-stand.

Draisaitl is a geek for the NHL,

studying players closely — particularly former Red Wings great Pavel Datsyuk and Kings captain Anze Kopitar — in the years before he made the league. He'll still flip on a game any time he's at home, a tradition that dates back to those days as a Raider in Prince Albert, or "PA" as he calls it.

Draisaitl just didn't have that kind of access to the NHL in

Germany and couldn't help but take advantage.

"Obviously with the time difference back home you would have to get up at two, three in the morning (to watch)," he said.

"Which doesn't mean I didn't do that either. I did that as well. But it was just easier, you could watch pretty much any game you want, any player you want. Also, I just enjoy watching hock-



I'd be nowhere near where I am without them right now.

Leon Draisaitl on his family

ey."

The Raiders used the second overall pick at the 2012 CHL import draft on Draisaitl, but then-general manager Bruno Campese wasn't actually sure he'd get the big centre who could make plays "through the roof" over to North America.

The Draisaitls weren't too keen on coming to PA. Peter Draisaitl wasn't sure if it was the right place for his son.

So Campese, now a scout for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, went to Cologne and over two and a half days laid out why Prince Albert offered the best possible stepping stone to the NHL and first-round draft status and eventually won them all over.

Draisaitl, with 102 points in 158 games, stands an excellent chance of passing Marco Sturm's 487 career points and becoming the highest-scoring German NHLer ever.

Dubbed the "German Gretzky" before he made it to the NHL, Draisaitl actually took a year off from hockey as a kid to pursue soccer, Germany's most popular sport. It didn't last.

"Hockey was just my thing I guess," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bill Belichick. GETTY IMAGES

SUPER BOWL

Belichick figuring out Falcons

Bill Belichick is on to the Atlanta Falcons. After taking a day to review and recharge following his team's AFC championship game win over Pittsburgh, the New England coach said Tuesday that the coaching staff's preparations are fully underway for the Super Bowl.

The Patriots are preparing to make their seventh Super Bowl appearance during the Belichick era, making them veterans at handling the various logistics involved with the big game. Belichick said it's helped them turn the page "about as quickly as we could."

"We're on to Atlanta now as a coaching staff. We're deep in the middle of them," he said.

The Patriots do have some familiarity with Falcons coach Dan Quinn, who was defensive co-ordinator of the Seattle Seahawks when the teams met in the Super Bowl two years ago.

"They have some of their own characteristics and of course the players are different, so that makes it different," Belichick said. "But schematically there is quite a bit of carryover."

One of the key differences, he said, is that the Falcons seem to bring a little more pressure than Seattle ran. Belichick also sees similarities in the schemes, which rely on players of similar skillsets such as Seattle's Kam Chancellor and Atlanta's Keanu Neal.

"Go right down the line — they're similar," Belichick said.

The Patriots defence will again have to contend with a dynamic receiver. Julio Jones had nine receptions for 180 yards and two scores in Atlanta's NFC championship game win over Green Bay, but will be challenged by a New England secondary that has given up just two passing touchdowns in the playoffs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2018 PARALYMPICS GAMES

Nicholson named chef for South Korea

Former sledge hockey captain Todd Nicholson will be Canada's chef de mission at the 2018 Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The native of Dunrobin, Ont., played for Canada from 1989 to 2010, winning gold, silver and bronze during that span.

The chef de mission acts as the face and spokesman of the team during the Games. Canada won 16 medals at the 2014 Games in Sochi, including seven gold, two silver and seven bronze.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Todd Nicholson THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Olympic diver Filion retires

Three-time Canadian Olympian Roseline Filion has retired after two decades of competitive diving.

Filion teamed with Meaghan Benfeito to earn back-to-back Olympic bronze medals in the 10-metre synchro.

"It's with great emotions that after 20 years of being a competitive athlete, I decided to retire," the native of Laval, Que., posted on Twitter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Roethlisberger is eyeing retirement

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger isn't sure he'll be back in 2017.

Roethlisberger said during his weekly radio appearance on Tuesday that he is going to take some time to evaluate whether he wants to keep playing. The two-time Super Bowl winner will turn 35 in March and has missed time in each of the last two seasons with knee issues. Roethlisberger is under contract through 2020.

Coach Mike Tomlin says



Ben Roethlisberger GETTY IMAGES

of Roethlisberger's, retired last February at age 33.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hadwin hopes big day sets 2017 trend

PGA TOUR

B.C. linksman riding high after Canadian record 59 score

A routine putt had Adam Hadwin rattled.

All that stood between the Canadian golfer and a third-round score of 59 at the PGA Tour's CareerBuilder Challenge on Saturday was a three-foot putt on the 18th hole. A shot that he's made time and time again over his golf career suddenly seemed daunting with history on the line.

"It's amazing that it came down to that one putt basically. I was extremely nervous, I was shaking," Hadwin said Monday. "The first thought

that entered my mind was, 'don't miss,' and the second thought was that I had done it thousands of times and I just needed to do it once more, and finish off the good round."

Hadwin made the shot, becoming just the eighth golfer, and first Canadian, to shoot a round below 60 on the PGA Tour.

Hadwin's previous lowest round in competition was 62 at a Mackenzie Tour-PGA Tour Canada event early in his pro career. He admitted he was thinking about history and doing the math in his head on Saturday.

"You don't get into that rhythm or mindset very often," he said. "It didn't seem to matter what I did. If I was putting from eight, 10, 16, or 20 feet, I made everything."



Adam Hadwin is back in the PGA Tour field this week at San Diego's Farmers Insurance Open. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Hadwin ended up second at the CareerBuilder Challenge, earning just over \$626,000 US.

He nailed a lengthy birdie putt

"I was extremely nervous, I was shaking."

Adam Hadwin on hitting his putt to secure a 59.

on the 17th hole Sunday to come into the final hole of the tournament just one shot back of the lead. But couldn't convert a birdie

on the 18th as Hudson Swafford captured his first PGA Tour title.

Hadwin knocked in a tricky shot for par to secure second place.

This was the second year in a row Hadwin was in the final group at the CareerBuilder Challenge. He said he feels comfortable playing golf in the desert and is familiar with the courses in La Quinta, Calif.

He also said the Canadian fan support was special.

"There was a lot of support, and I think it helped. It made me feel pretty good about what I was doing, and it definitely adds to my confidence," he said.

Hadwin has been on the PGA Tour since 2015 after he won twice on the Web.com Tour circuit and earned full status thanks to his position

on the money list. His previous best finish on the PGA Tour was a tie for fourth at the 2011 RBC Canadian Open at Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club in Vancouver, about an hour away from where he grew up in Abbotsford, B.C.

He said his result Sunday is going to be good for his confidence this season.

"The first couple of days I felt like I was playing pretty well. But to make everything on Saturday and have one of those days, it got me back into the tournament and I created a little history in the round as well," he said. "I was happy to be in this position early in the year. It sets me up for future events, shows I can compete, hang in there, and have a chance to win golf tournaments."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INJURY UPDATE

McIlroy hopes for early-March return

Rory McIlroy is targeting the Mexico Championship in March as his return to tournament action from injury.

McIlroy aggravated a rib stress fracture while finishing runner-up at the SA Open in Gauteng two weekends ago. Those injuries typically take about six weeks to heal, and he believes he'll be ready to play again in the first World Golf Championship of the year, from March 2-5.

"I feel like I can maybe get back before that, but if I were



Rory McIlroy
GETTY IMAGES

to play (the) Honda (Classic) and then go straight to Mexico, I'd be playing two weeks in a row. I'd like to ease my way back in gently," he said on Tuesday.

McIlroy put the rib injury down to an extra-busy off-season, when he hit a lot of balls to make a swing change and test drivers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Argos fire GM Barker

The Toronto Argonauts fired general manager Jim Barker on Tuesday after the team finished at the bottom of the CFL standings last season.

The Argos were tied with Saskatchewan for last in the league at 5-13.

Barker spent six seasons as GM, winning a Grey Cup in 2012.

The team says Scott Milanovich, who was hired by Barker, will remain as the Argos head coach.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays sign Saltalamacchia to minor-league deal: Source

A person with knowledge of the negotiations says the Toronto Blue Jays have agreed to a minor league contract with free agent catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia.

The agreement is reportedly subject to a physical and Toronto had not made an announcement.

Saltalamacchia would get a \$1.25 million, one-year contract if added to the major league roster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

Ivory Coast's reign ends vs. Morocco

Ivory Coast didn't even make it past the group stage in its defence of the African Cup of Nations as it crashed out without winning a game on Tuesday.

Ivory Coast needed to beat Morocco in the last round of matches in Group C to make the quarter-finals but lost 1-0 to follow Algeria out of the African championship in Gabon — two big teams gone in the space of 24 hours.

Instead, Congo topped the

TUESDAY In Oyem, Gabon



group with a colorful 3-1 win over Togo in Port-Gentil, where the Congolese players danced in front of their fans for every one of their goals, and again at fulltime.

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PHOTO: MAVA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

• 4 filets of cod

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

2. In a large skillet, warm olive oil over medium heat. Toss in garlic, onions and fennel and sauté about five minutes until vegetables begin to soften. Add peppers and herbs and cook another three minutes.

3. Add tomatoes and olives. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up tomatoes. Allow to simmer and thicken for about 10 minutes.

4. Pour the sauce into a baking dish. Lay the cod over the sauce and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until fish is flaky. Sprinkle finely chopped fennel fronds over top.

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Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

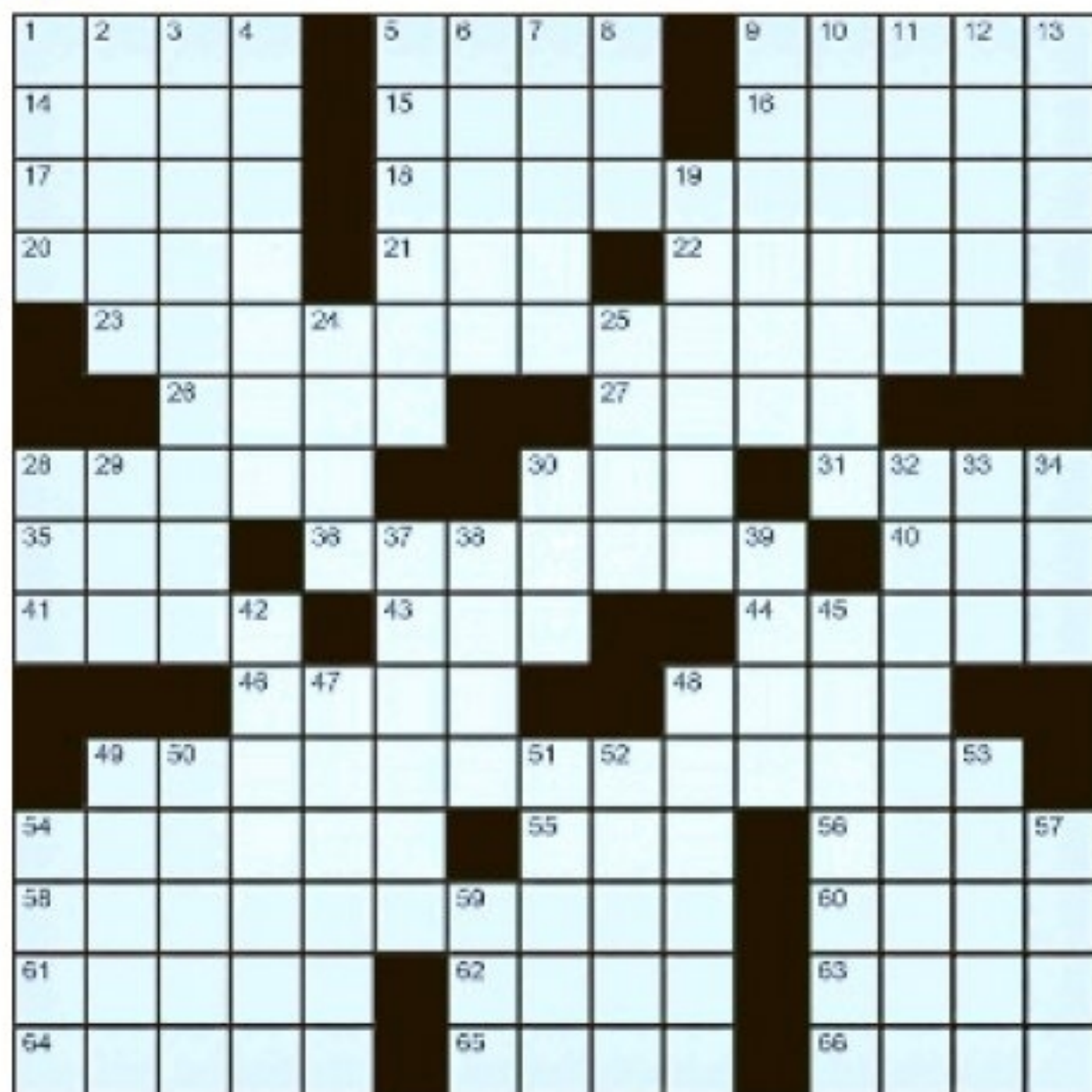
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 bulb of fennel, trimmed and thinly sliced (retain the fennel fronds for garnish)
- 1 red pepper, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 x 28 oz. can of tomatoes
- 1/3 cup black olives, pitted

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ACROSS

- Butterfingers
- Worker's two-days-from-Wed. holler!
- Grammy, for one
- Conspiracy
- Forearm bone
- Battle royal
- Country of West Africa
- 2017: It's on display more than ever during Canada 150
- Fair
- Dutch city
- Pope's emissary
- Song on The Tragically Hip's 'Road Apples' album alluding to the legendary afterlife: 2 wds.
- Early helicopter
- Not as much
- Barbera (Cartoon-creating team)
- Rihanna's "____" (Rescue Me)
- Maple trees' drinks
- Camel hair garment
- Sorts of seals
- Gladiator's 3
- Narrate
- Jay Z's wife, to pals
- Job seeker's interviewer
- Comic Mr. Sandler
- Brewery kiln
- The Tragically Hip tune with an office setting video: 4 wds.
- Fun piece of jewellery
- "Geel", to



- a Scot
56. Ms. Del Rey
58. Not difficult to enter, as a building
60. Winnipeg's Portage and Ottawa's Carling, e.g.
61. Mother-of-pearl
62. Untruthful
63. Shipbuild-

- ing wood
64. Murders bugs this way
65. Academic terms, for short
66. Antiquities

DOWN

- Goes for
- Distant in de-

- meanor
3. Warning for mariners: 2 wds.
4. Acted as a replacement for somebody: 2 wds.
5. Mississippi city where Elvis Presley was born
6. Air freshen-

- er brand
7. Prefix with 'continental'
8. Way out
9. Secret love affairs
10. Non-dry quality
11. "The Brady Bunch" housekeeper
12. Pine tree stuff

- Garage band's CD
- Consume
- Pull along
- Plum-like fruit
- Fedora, for one
- Bart Simpson's grandfather
- Hue of blue
- It sometimes results in jet lag: 2 wds.
- Apple ____
- Gentleman's title
- Puts down
- Quasi
- Canadian telecommunications firm
- Miranda of country tunes
- Sequester
- Edible seaweeds
- Nicole Kidman movie, "The ____" (2001)
- Particular parrot
- Icky-sounding plant
- Canadian actress Ms. Smulders
- Happy as ____ (Glad)
- Work the dough
- Ray-____ (Sunglasses)
- Is inquisitive
- They, in Ta-doussac

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your relationships with bosses and authority figures today will be easygoing. They will be willing to listen to you, and you will be willing to listen to them. Of course, this doesn't mean you will agree.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened today, give yourself a chance to enjoy beautiful places and things. Visit art galleries, museums, beautiful buildings and parks.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have to share something with someone today, be careful to protect your own best interests. It's good to be generous — but don't be a doormat.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Because the Moon today is opposite your sign, you must go more than halfway when dealing with others. This simply requires some tolerance and patience.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do something today that will help you feel better organized. Set aside 15 minutes, and use this time to tidy up things and get on top of your game.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a creative day for you. If you work in the arts, you will be productive. Trust your imagination and your artistic skills. You also feel sensitive to the needs of children.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day for family discussions because everyone will feel mutually sympathetic. If you cannot help someone, you can at least listen with genuine understanding.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might spend a lot of time daydreaming today. Your imagination also is heightened, which is why flights of fantasy might take up some time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If shopping today, you might be tempted to spend too much money on something luxurious and extravagant. Think about this carefully. Save your receipts.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel more emotional than usual today. Knowing this, be careful not to overreact if you're unhappy about something. Be cool.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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